

REMARKS

Claim 1 is revised to incorporate the substance of now-cancelled Claim 9 and to recite the benefits obtained when the sealing material is substantially the same as the insulating material of the FFCs. Claims 1-8 and 10-12 remain, with Claims 3-7 previously withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, and 9 stand rejected as anticipated by *Goericke* (DE 3333709). The Applicant respectfully traverses that rejection and provides the following arguments on the rejection as directed to former Claim 9.

Claim 1 defines insulation of electrical connections of at least two flat flex cables, comprising electrical strip conductors wherein their insulating material is removed locally and exposed conductors of different FFCs are electrically joined together. The insulation of the electrical connection includes a matrix with an insulating sealing material consisting of substantially the same material as the insulating material of the FFCs. With this claimed arrangement, discussed at page 4 of the specification, the sealing material has chemical, mechanical, and thermal characteristics substantially matching those characteristics of the insulating material for the FFCs joined in the matrix.

The rejection based on anticipation by *Goericke* asserts that the reference shows an insulating sealing material (3) which consists "substantially of a similar material" as the insulation for the flat cables, the sealing material and the insulating material both being plastic material. However, amended Claim 1 (as did Claim 9) requires an insulating sealing material which consists substantially of the same material as the insulating material of the FFCs. That limitation is missing in *Goericke*, who states only that the insulation body 3 should be tight against humidity (Claim 1), and that the

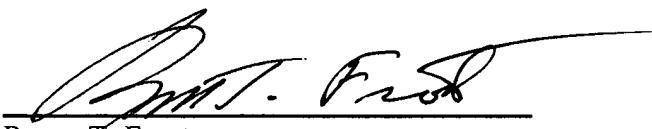
insulation body 3 may be produced by injection molding (Claim 12). (A courtesy copy of pages containing Claims 1 and 12 of *Goericke* is enclosed with this Response.) However, *Goericke* states that the insulation of the branching conductors 2 may consist of foils of polyester or polyethylene (page 8, hand-numbered sequence, final sentence), or without any differentiation may consist of injection molded material. Therefore, *Goericke* fails to anticipate the foregoing requirement of amended Claim 1, namely, that the insulating sealing material consists substantially of the same material as the insulating material of the FFCs themselves. For that reason, *Goericke* cannot anticipate the subject matter of Claim 1 or of the claims depending therefrom.

Claims 1, 8, and 10-12 stand rejected as unpatentable over *Steiner* (US 2004/0038598) in view of *Goericke*. *Steiner* is cited as disclosing two electrical strip conductors joined together at an overlapping area insulated with an "insulating sealing material (34)". The rejection asserts that it would have been obvious to choose a suitable thickness for the sealing material in the area of the matrix taught by *Goericke*. The Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is moot as to amended Claim 1, which includes the substance of Claim 9. Furthermore, the Applicant notes that *Steiner* teaches covers made of plastic materials such as hot-melt adhesive, or plastic tape with hot-melt adhesive, having a thickness corresponding substantially to that of the flexible cable (paragraph [0037]). (Although reference "34" appears in several drawing figures of *Steiner*, that numeral is missing from the text.) Those cover materials are different from the insulating material of the overlapping flat conductors. Accordingly, *Steiner* does not disclose anything relevant to the present invention as recited in Claims 1 et al.

The foregoing is set forth as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. The Applicant respectfully submits that all claims remaining in this application are novel and patentable over the art of record solicits a Notice of Allowance to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patentansprüche

1. Bandleitung mit mehreren, parallel zueinander verlaufenden, durch Zwischenräume getrennten und in eine gemeinsame Isolierung eingebetteten elektrischen Leitern, welche in ihrem Verlauf mindestens einen der Kontaktgabe dienenden, als seitwärts abstehender Steg ausgebildeten Abgriff aufweist, der aus isolierten elektrischen Leitern besteht und an dessen freiem Ende die Leiter von ihrer Isolierung befreit sind, dadurch gekennzeichnet,
5 - daß der Abgriff (2,5) mindestens zwei Leiter (7) aufweist und als gesondertes, von der Bandleitung (1) an sich unabhängiges Bauteil ausgeführt ist,
- daß die Leiter (7) des Abgriffs (2,5) elektrisch leitend und mechanisch fest mit den Leitern (6) der Bandleitung (1) verbunden sind,
10 - und daß die Verbindungsstelle zwischen Abgriff (2,5) und Bandleitung (1) durch einen Isolierkörper (3) feuchtigkeitsdicht abgedeckt ist.
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11. Bandleitung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 10, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Ende der Bandleitung (1) über den letzten Abgriff (2) hinaus verlängert und in einen Isolierkörper (5) eingebettet ist.

5 12. Bandleitung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 11, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Isolierkörper (3,5) durch Spritzen hergestellt sind.



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